

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9735

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 3940

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, IS, SZ

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL CREDIT BANK/GENEVA

REF: TEL AVIV 5973 AND PREVIOUS

1. WE HAVE FOLLOWED WITH INTEREST TEL AVIV AND PRESS REPORTING ON INTERNATIONAL CREDIT BANK/GENEVA (ICB) PROBLEMS AND IMPACT ON ISRAELI POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL SITUATION. ONE POINT WE HAVE NOT NOTED SO FAR, HOWEVER, IS THAT ACCORDING RECORDS AVAILABLE HERE PRINCIPAL ICB SHAREHOLDER DR. TIBOR ROSEBAUM, A SWISS NATIONAL, HAS BEEN ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED DURING A REMARKABLE PART IN VARIETY OF AT TIME UNSAVORY ACTIVITIES INCLUDING DIAMOND SMUGGLING FROM LIBERIA AND CONNECTIONS WITH CERTAIN US CRIMINAL ELEMENTS.

2. SWISS AUTHORITIES TO OUR KNOWLEDGE HAVE NOT TAKEN MAJOR INTEREST IN ICB PROBLEMS. SENIOR SWISS NATIONAL BANK OFFICIAL RECENTLY TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE DID NOT CONSIDER ICB AS REALLY A BANK SERVING SWITZERLAND NOTING THAT MOST OF ITS DEPOSITORS AND CUSTOMERS WERE ISRAELI
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OR OTHER FOREIGN JEWS. ICB IS NOT MEMBER SWISS BANKERS

ASSOCIATION, A PRO FORMA STEP TAKEN BY MOST BANKS LOCATED
IN SWITZERLAND. ON OTHER HAND, DANIEL BODMER, SECRETARY
OF SWISS FEDERAL BANKING COMMISSION, (THE GOVERNMENT
REGULATORY AUTHORITY FOR BANKING IN SWITZERLAND) HAS BEEN
QUOTED IN PRESS AS CHARACTERIZING RETURN DEMANDED BY HESSISCHE
LANDESBANK OF 36.4 PERCENT SHARE IN ICB AS "RIDICULOUS"
AND "IMPROPER", BECAUSE OF ROSEBAUM'S OBVIOUS PRESENT
INABILITY TO COMPLY.
DAVIS

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NNN

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